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ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1957

PRINTED BY JAMIESON & MUNRO, LTD.,
40 Craigs, Stirling.
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor A. G. CUTMORE (Chairman)

Councillor C. W. LANE (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor W. E. CONNELL

Councillor E. FRICKER

Councillor W. MATTHEWS

Councillor M. M. MORRISON

Councillor W. PITT

Councillor T. SPARROW

Councillor P. J. WOOD

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Senior Public Health Inspector,
Cleansing Superintendent.

W. A. BEERE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

N. CUTHBERTSON, M.A.P.H.I.,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

A. G. PAINE,
Chief Clerk.

Mrs. A. ECKSTEIN,
Shorthand-Typist/Clerk.

Health Department,
15 Hatfield Road,
St. Albans.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans
and the Chairman and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural District
Council.*

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of St. Albans and the St. Albans Rural District for 1957.

Except for a widespread epidemic of measles in the first half of the year, fortunately mild in character and a large number of Asian Flu cases about October, the health of the two areas remained good. Most of the Asian Flu cases were mild. A vaccine to give protection to people especially exposed to the infection, *e.g.*, Doctors and Nurses, was issued by the Ministry of Health, but by the time it arrived the epidemic had passed its peak. It was difficult to assess the efficacy of the vaccine in preventing the infection, but it was certainly a long way from 100% and the reaction in several cases was just as bad as having the actual disease.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for the consideration and help you have at all times shown to me, and to my staff I wish to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I am also deeply indebted to the chief clerk, secretary and staff in the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in preparation of the statistics for this report, and for the many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were actually outside their Divisional Health Office duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,
Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	47,290	33,060
Area (in acres)	5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books—		
Dwelling Houses	14,461	8,081
Shops with living accommodation ...	323	85
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	75	60
Total	14,859	8,226
Rateable Value	£785,963	£380,168

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births : Legitimate ...	363	347	710	247	239	486
Illegitimate ...	13	9	22	11	9	20
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			15·48			15·31
Stillbirths	8	6	14	9	3	12
Deaths	235	279	514	248	281	529
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...			10·87			16·00

Birth and Death Rates

Obviously the birth rate in any community will be affected by the percentage of women of childbearing age and marital status in that community, compared with the average of the country as a whole.

Especially or even more so, a community with a high proportion of elderly people must have a higher death rate than one with few old people and many young ones.

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

Applying these two factors to the City and R.D.C. gives the following results :—

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparable Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Comparable Death Rate
City	15·48	15·17	10·87	10·65
R.D.C.	15·31	16·53	16·00	8·32

Deaths from Pregnancy

Child Birth, Abortion

Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)
—	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age

				St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
				M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	6	11	2	6	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births						15.03			17.79
Combined Rate							16.16		
Neonatal Death Rate						12.29			9.88

The following Table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947.

Year	Death Rate		Birth Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
1947	12.6	9.2	17.9	16.5	33.0	54.0
1948	10.2	6.98	17.2	14.54	19.2	18.1
1949	11.5	8.2	18.2	14.8	13.1	22.2
1950	11.3	7.7	16.3	13.2	33.3	22.5
1951	12.0	7.7	16.4	13.3	27.6	29.1
1952	10.6	6.8	16.5	12.8	27.1	8.1
1953	11.52	18.05	15.60	14.46	29.87	28.64
1954	10.83	17.74	15.43	14.48	18.54	16.59
1955	10.32	19.10	15.93	15.16	15.23	15.28
1956	10.99	19.31	16.31	14.43	15.77	19.78
1957	10.87	16.00	15.48	15.31	15.03	17.79
1902	10.9		21.4		67.4	
1901	13.0		21.6		135.4	

Causes of Death

				St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.			
				M.	F.	M.	F.		
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	—	5	2		
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	1	—	3	—		
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—	1	1		
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	7	4	6	2	Cancer 178	
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	19	3	15	2		
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	10	—	10		
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	4	—	6		
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	27	29	14	12		
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	2	1	4		
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	23	67	23	35	Heart Disease 326	
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	40	37	39	27		
19.	Hypertension	...	...	8	12	3	20		
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	19	31	33	57		
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	8	17	17	23		
22.	Influenza	...	...	2	3	3	5		
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	6	13	30	22		
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	28	5	10	14		
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	1	4	2		
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	3	4	4		
27.	Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	...	...	—	4	2	1		
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	—	—	—		
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	4	—	4	—		
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and abortion	...	...	—	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	3	1	7	2		
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	24	20	19	22		
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	4	2	2	2		
34.	All other accidents	...	...	4	7	3	3		
35.	Suicide	...	...	3	4	—	3		
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—	—
Totals ...				235	279	248	281	} 1043	

Once again, the greatest single cause of death was, excluding heart disease, cancer. "Heart Disease" was chiefly a normal termination of life in old age—something which is inevitable, and most of the 326 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age."

Vital Statistics, 1957—England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

BIRTHS

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	...	...	...	16·1
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	22·4

DEATHS

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	...	...	...	11·5
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	...	...	...	23·0
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	0·47
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	...	...	...	16·50

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1957

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1957 are as follows:

	<i>Number</i>			<i>Rate</i>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3,151	1,099	4,250	146	47	95
Other Tuberculosis ...	264	270	534	12	12	12
Cancer of lung and bronchus ...	16,430	2,688	19,118	759	116	426
Other cancer ...	33,615	41,274	74,889	1,553	1,775	1,668

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY (Combined figures for two authorities)

Cause of Death	AGE AT DEATH									
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	7	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	7
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
Congenital Malformations	4	...	1	...	5	...	1	2	1	9
Marasmus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
T.B. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Difficult Labour ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
All causes	12	...	2	...	14	1	1	3	1	20

It will be seen that prematurity and congenital conditions account for 16 out of the 20 deaths.

Section B**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA****Welfare Centres and Clinics****Bricket Wood—The Social Club, Oak Avenue**

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. attends 2nd.)

Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9 a.m. at Nurse's Cottage,
139, Mount Pleasant Lane. (Telephone, Garston 2183.)

Colney Heath—The Pavilion

Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30-4 p.m.
Minor Ailments treated in children's own homes or at local school.

Harpenden—Memorial Hospital (Harpenden 3696)

Ante-Natal... ... Mondays, 2-4 p.m.

Orthopaedic ... Saturdays, a.m. (Surgeon attends once monthly.)

40, Luton Road (Harpenden 40)

Ophthalmic ... 1st and 3rd Mondays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon.
(By appointment.)

Minor Ailments ... Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 noon (Dr. attends).

Speech Therapy ... Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m.

Dental ... Mondays, 2-4 p.m.;
Thursdays, 10.30 a.m.-12 noon; 2-4 p.m. (by
appointment).

Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m.

London Colney—Primary School, Alexander Road

Minor Ailments ... Fridays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon.
(Dr. attends 2nd and 4th.)

Infant Welfare ... Thursdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m.

Redbourn—Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30-4.30 p.m.

Minor Ailments treated 8.15-8.30 a.m., and 6.15-6.45 p.m. at nurse's
residence, 18, Bettespool Meadows. (Red-
born 251.)

St. Albans—Village Hall, Park Street

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1.30-4 p.m.

St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road

Infant Weighing ... 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2-4 p.m.

Mandeville J.M.I. School

Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.

Margaret Wix Health Annexe—High Oaks (St. Albans 56994)

Infant Welfare ... Wednesdays, 1.30-4 p.m.

Speech Therapy ... Mondays, 9.30-12.30 p.m.
Thursday, 9.30-12.30 p.m.

Dental Tuesday a.m. (2nd and 4th in month).*
 Wednesday a.m. (1st and 3rd in month).*
 Thursday p.m. (weekly).*
 Friday a.m. and p.m. (weekly).*
 Saturday a.m. (alternate).*
 *By appointment.

Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55002 and 54926)

Immunisation and
 Minor Ailment ... Mondays, 9 a.m.-12 noon.
 (Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)
 Dental Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and
 Friday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
 Saturdays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon (alternate).
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and
 Friday, 2-5 p.m.
 Orthoptic Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-12 noon ; 2-4.30 p.m.
 Ophthalmic Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-12 noon ;
 Monday, 1.30 p.m.-3.30 p.m.
 Speech Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. ;
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
 1.30-4.30 p.m.
 Ante-Natal Wednesday, 9.30-11.30 a.m. ;
 Monday, 2-4.30 p.m. (Midwives session).
 Infant Welfare Tuesday and Friday, 1.30-4 p.m.
 (Dr. attends Friday.)
 Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55431)

Orthopaedic ... Monday, Wednesday, Friday, all day.
 Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd Friday,
 p.m.

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women) ... Tuesday, 5-7 p.m. ; Friday, 2-4 p.m.
 V.D. (Men) ... Tuesday, 5-7 p.m. ; Friday, 10 a.m.-12 noon.
 Post Natal Wednesday, 11 a.m.
 Chest Clinic ... Tuesday, 10.30 a.m. (children).
 Monday, 2 p.m. (St. Albans Patients).

Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 55555)

Child Guidance ... Mondays to Fridays a.m. and p.m.

Sandridge—The Parish Hall

Infant Weighing ... 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30-3.30 p.m.
 Minor Ailments treated between 4 and 5 p.m. at nurse's residence, 2 Reynolds Crescent (St. Albans 54985) or in children's own home if necessary.

Shenley

Minor Ailments treated at school.

Wheathampstead—Mead Hall, East Lane

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30-4 p.m.
 (Dr. attends 3 p.m.)
 Minor Ailments treated 8.30-9 a.m. at nurse's residence, Inez Cottage,
 Luton Road. (Wheathampstead 3123.)

National Health Service Act

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work, especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

Every ambulance journey exceeding 50 miles outwards has to be sanctioned by me as Divisional Medical Officer, and I can assure you that the case is investigated very carefully indeed before consent is given.

Ambulance Service

I have omitted the figures for ambulance journeys, etc. The service is at full stretch and whether a St. Albans case is serviced from St. Albans or Harpenden or even further afield depends on the urgency of the case, availability of vehicles, etc. County ambulances are under wireless control and an ambulance bringing a case to St. Albans from, say, Hertford, may be detailed to take a St. Albans case home to, say, Smallford.

Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. E. J. Burgess, Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information :—

The allocation of beds is as follows :—

							St. Albans City Hospital
Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Medical	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Paediatric	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Gynaecological	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Chest	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Private Wing—							
Section 5 Patients			...	...	...	...	4
Section 4 Beds			...	...	...	...	6
			Total	...	...	...	<hr/>384

School Medical Service

This service continues to work very smoothly, due largely to the help and co-operation received from Head Teachers. I have been very impressed by the interest taken by parents and in about 75% of the examinations, one of the parents has been present.

The innovation of calling parents up when their children are re-examined following a defect found at a previous examination has proved to be very valuable and is, I believe, thoroughly appreciated by the parents. The attendance of parents at such examinations is very good indeed. It was considered that this might overload the School Medical Officers, in that it would possibly take more time to deal with each individual case, but in practice we find that by calling the parents we do not have to call the children so often, and this fully balances the apparent disadvantage.

Milk and Meals in Schools

These are of a very high standard and a well worth while investment. Washing facilities appear adequate in most cases and food preparation rooms and kitchens clean, though space is often limited.

Health Visiting

There are twenty nurses doing health visiting in the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Nursing Homes and Old People's Homes

There are six Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and 9 Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewerage

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths in the area—one in the City and two in the Rural District—have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results which are checked frequently throughout the summer, have proved very satisfactory.

Public Baths

These have been going now for over four years and undoubtedly provide a much needed service. I have always emphasized that this service is a Public Health service and cannot be expected to be financially self-supporting, but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and expenditure will decrease, but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase not decrease the gap.

Mortuary

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary :

Adult—Males	...	...	...	...	52
Females	...	...	...	...	39
Children—Males	...	...	...	...	—
Females	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Post Mortems			...	...	94

General Nutrition

Poor nutrition is rare and often is the result of fussing parents indulging in food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight, or have small parents.

Nursing in the Home

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing, which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home and where a request is made personally or at the request of the doctor in attendance.

Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Herts County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school age within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Office staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations, but these requests must be backed up by a medical or nurse's certificate. No one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular. So much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the home help that is desired because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas—Easter when, of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

Section D**HOUSING**

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme and in addition, all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to allocate additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reason for doing so. In extreme cases I also have the power of giving absolute priority, but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme, with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one, and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes, but I can assure both Councils that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as is humanly possible, bearing in mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the Housing points scheme.

Section E**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD****Food Poisoning Outbreaks**

There was one outbreak of Food Poisoning in 2 of the wards of St. Albans City Hospital caused by *Clostridium Welchii* with 23 cases. This was traced to minced chicken in which *Clostridium Welchii* was found. I discussed the position with the Catering Officer who promised to take suitable action to avoid the chances of similar outbreaks in future.

In addition, there were 5 individual cases of food poisoning notified. One of these was due to *Salmonella Typhi* Murium, but the cause of the other 4 was not known, nor could the food causing the disease be identified in any of the other 5.

Section F**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES****Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1957**

				St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
				Notified	Deaths	Notified	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	45	...	9	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	99	...	53	...
Measles	...	...	...	865	...	433	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	...	4	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	26	...	2	...
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic)	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	3	...	57	...
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Poliomyelitis

We were fortunate in this area in having only 2 cases of paralytic Poliomyelitis notified with no deaths and 3 non-paralytic.

The diagnosis in the non-paralytic form is usually highly doubtful and several other cases were quite rightly admitted to hospital as suspects. Even the laboratory examination of the Cerebro spinal fluid gives in some cases doubtful results, and experience so far of laboratory examination of stools seems quite untrustworthy.

I had this examination carried out in 2 cases, of definite poliomyelitis and their family contacts in another area. Both patients showed negative stools and all contacts positive though these had no illness whatever!

All close contacts of definite and doubtful cases who have to deal with food or children are kept away from work for 3 weeks. This, of course, means that contacts of doubtful cases which subsequently turn out to be not Polio may be kept away from school or work for 3 weeks.

Tuberculosis

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1957

		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		Total
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
St. Albans City	...	219 (199)	124 (111)	25 (25)	19 (16)	387 (351)
St. Albans R.D.	...	168 (148)	125 (119)	13 (12)	19 (22)	325 (301)
Totals	...	387 (347)	249 (230)	38 (37)	38 (38)	712 (652)

Figures at 31/12/56 are in brackets.

The increases are, I believe, due to more intensive search for cases, e.g., Mass Radiography, and the better co-operation of other Local Authorities in notifying to us their cases moving into our district. I do not think the disease is, in fact, increasing.

Smallpox

There were no cases during 1957.

Vaccination

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Re-vaccinated) during 1957 :

Age at 31st December—	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over	Total
Number vaccinated ...	1,185	86	78	79	52	1,480
Number Re-vaccinated ...	...	...	15	31	116	162
Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above) ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of births registered for the St. Albans Division					...	2,020
Primary vaccination rate per 100 births			...	...	...	73.3

Of the total number of primary vaccination (1480), 581 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 73·3 per 100 births is well up on last year (54·9).

I strongly advocate vaccination before the age of 1 year when the risks involved are negligible. Many people in later life find they must be vaccinated either to travel abroad or take up some employment where vaccination is insisted upon. The risks in vaccination in later years are much greater, except when the primary vaccination has been done in infancy.

The great increase in air travel has also increased the risk of smallpox being brought into the country, as a case may be infected in, say, Egypt or India, and be here before the onset of the disease, whereas previously, by surface transport, the time involved in the journey ensured that the disease became apparent before landing in the United Kingdom.

Diphtheria

There were no cases reported in 1957.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a Full Course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1957:

Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (*i.e.*, subsequent to a complete full course) :

Age at date of final injection—

Under 5,	5-15,	Total,	
1,758	91	1,849	982

Number of births registered for the same area ...	...	2,020
Primary immunisation rate per 100 births ...	...	91·5

The numbers shown above include 1,379 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough—Diphtheria immunisation injections and 344 children who received re-inforcing combined injections.

Whooping Cough

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1957 :

Age at date of final injection—		Total,
Under 5,	5-15,	
1,725	59	1,784
Primary Immunisation Rate, 88·3.		

These figures include 1379 children who received a primary immunisation with a combined Whooping Cough-Diphtheria vaccine.

Several cases of Whooping Cough have occurred in children who have been immunised, but all such cases have been very mild indeed. We do not claim that whooping cough immunisation prevents whooping cough to anything like the extent that diphtheria immunisation prevents diphtheria, but it will prevent altogether the disease in many cases and in others, turn what is a very long, distressing and sometimes fatal disease into what could fairly be called a "Minor Ailment."

Programme of Protective Inoculations

The following should be the routine procedure for young children :—

Month and Age

3rd month	...	Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c.
4th month	...	Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c.
4½ months	...	Smallpox Vaccine.
6th month	...	Poliomyelitis Vaccine 1 c.c.
7th month	...	Poliomyelitis Vaccine 1 c.c.
8th month	...	Diphtheria Formol Toxoid 1 c.c.
9th month	...	Diphtheria Formol Toxoid 1 c.c.
12th month	...	Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c.

Booster

Diphtheria 1 c.c. Formol Toxoid or T.A.F. immediately before or after the child starts school.

Poliomyelitis Vaccine

The only contraindications considered to be valid at present are the same as those applying to the other types of immunising procedures, viz., acute or intercurrent illness, poor or indifferent general health, acute constitutional disturbance, etc. If a child is to have tonsils or adenoids removed and is also due for the vaccine, it should be given at least two weeks before the operation if possible in the hope that the child may develop some immunity.

B.C.G. Vaccine.

If this vaccine is to be—or has been—given to a young child contact, there should be no immunising injections of any kind before or for six weeks afterwards.

REPORT OF SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Council Offices,
43 Upper Lattimore Road,
St. Albans.

May, 1958.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1957.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies of the area continue to receive close attention, and a total of seventy-seven samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratories at Luton for bacteriological examination.

Seven Water Undertakers supply in the St. Albans Rural District, namely :—

- The Barnet District Water Company.
- The Colne Valley Water Company.
- The Harpenden Water Company.
- Borough of Hemel Hempstead.
- Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.
- St. Albans Rural District Council.
- St. Albans Waterworks Company.

In addition, each of the following seven bodies provide an efficient piped supply to the dwelling houses on their Estate :—

- All Saints Convent, London Colney.
- Childwickbury Estate.
- Gorhambury and adjacent Crown Lands (plant operated by the Crown Commissioners).
- Hanstead Estate, Bricket Wood.
- Harperbury Hospital (supplied from Shenley Hospital).
- Hill End and Cell Barnes Hospitals.
- Napsbury Hospital.

The seven Water Undertakers and seven Estates supply all the dwellings in the district excepting 191. These 191 dwellings take their supplies from private bores or wells and are located as follows:—

Parish of Colney Heath	...	24
Parish of Harpenden Rural		11
Parish of London Colney		2
Parish of Redbourn	...	28
Parish of Sandridge	...	40
Parish of St. Michaels	...	9
Parish of St. Stephens	...	43
Parish of Wheathampstead		34

SWIMMING BATHS

There are two swimming baths not under the Council's management which are open to the public and in respect of which a charge is made for admission. Under an arrangement between the Education Authority and the Proprietors, they are used extensively by the schools. At each the system of continuous circulation and purification of the water is operated. Close supervision was exercised throughout the season, and a total of 49 samples of the waters were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

By agreement with the manager, a swimming pool which is maintained in connection with a private recreation club and used by a considerable number of members was sampled regularly throughout the summer.

HOUSING

1.	Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
2.	Number of demolition or closing orders made—							
	(a) demolition orders	...	...	...	...			19
	(b) closing orders—							
	whole premises	...	...	...	...			2
	part premises	...	...	...	...			1
3.	Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted under sub-section 3 of Section II of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...		3
4.	Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...			25

At the 31st December, 1956, the following two houses, which are the subject of a clearance order, were being used, under licence, for human habitation :—

Two wooden cottages at Lower Gustard Wood, Wheat-hampstead.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Statistics prepared by Miss Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer, are shown in Appendix I.

Moveable Dwellings

A Statistical Table in respect of moveable dwellings in the district is given in Appendix II.

Nuisances

Seventy-five complaints of alleged nuisances were received and suitable action taken. In no case was it found necessary to serve a statutory notice to secure abatement.

REPLACEMENT OF PAILCLOSETS BY WATERCLOSETS

The council continued their policy of making contributions under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, towards the expenses reasonably incurred by the owners of buildings in the execution of necessary works in connection with the replacement of pailclosets by waterclosets.

During the year, 37 pailclosets were replaced. Replacements during each of the preceding five years were as follows :—

1956	...	...	...	...	84
1955	...	...	...	...	32
1954	...	...	...	...	37
1953	...	...	...	...	75
1952	...	...	...	...	54

RODENT CONTROL

Statistics in respect of Rodent Control are shown in Appendix III.

REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Fifty-two premises are registered in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice-cream and preserved food, etc. Of these, forty-three are registered for the sale of ice-cream and two are registered for both the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

From the figures in Appendix VI of this report, it will be noted that the total number of food premises in the district is 196.

MILK

The following table gives details of current registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Premises registered	Persons carrying on the trade of Milk Distributors elsewhere than at or from a Dairy Farm		
	From shops in the St. Albans Rural District	From premises within the St. Albans Rural District not being shop premises	From premises outside the St. Albans Rural District
Dairy premises other than Dairy Farms			
11	5	6	8

The following tables give details of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

**THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK)
REGULATIONS, 1949**

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"
4	8

**THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED
AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949**

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"
6	7	7	6

WATERCRESS

There are two watercress beds in use in the district, namely, one in the Parish of Wheathampstead and one in the Parish of Redbourn. The growers concerned have made arrangements for the treatment of the cut cress with a hypochlorite solution before despatching to market.

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep and pigs for human consumption is carried out at three licensed slaughterhouses, and details of the total number of animals slaughtered thereat during the year and of the condemnations are given in the following table. A one hundred per cent. inspection was maintained throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Public Health Inspector, City of St. Albans, and his staff for co-operating in these duties.

The slaughter of horses for human consumption is carried out at a licensed slaughterhouse at London Colney.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN
WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1957**

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed ...	1,703	118	581	3,564	4,548	19
Number Inspected	1,703	118	581	3,564	4,548	19
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcasses con- demned	1	1	3	4	5	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	200	21	...	45	129	...
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	11.80	18.64	0.52	1.37	2.95	...
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcasses con- demned	7	1	...	...	1	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	50	3	...	...	54	...
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	3.35	3.39	Nil	Nil	1.21	...
Cysticercosis—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	5	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	5	...	...	...	...	...
Generalised and totally condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Cleansing is by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, nightsoil collection and cesspool emptying.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection is carried out by three teams of collectors. Two of these teams operate with 25-cubic yards Dennis "Paxit Major" vehicles. The remaining team operates with a 10-cubic yards side-loading vehicle and operates over the more sparsely populated parts of the district. Reserve vehicles are maintained to permit of regular servicing and to meet emergencies.

An incentive bonus scheme has been in operation throughout the year and has been a factor in attracting and holding our labour force. At the beginning of the year a collection was being made from 8541 premises but, owing to building development, this had increased to 9094 premises at the end of the year. In the case of 9062 of these 9094 premises, the organisation was on the basis of a once-weekly collection and in the case of the remaining 32 premises, the organisation was on the basis of a fortnightly collection.

Nightsoil Collection

Nightsoil emptying equipment is fitted to one of our Dennis cesspool emptiers. The work of nightsoil collection is carried out during normal daylight working hours by one man who is paid a plus rate of one shilling per hour in respect of the hours engaged thereon.

Pails are cleansed at 122 premises. This figure shows a reduction of 48 or 28·24 per cent. compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1956.

Cleansing of Cesspools and the Disposal of Cesspool Contents

As will be noted from the statistical table in Appendix VII, the number of cesspools which were being cleansed by the Council at the 31st December, 1957, was 494, which shows a reduction of 29 or 5·54 per cent. on the number at the 31st December, 1956.

With few exceptions, cesspool contents are discharged into sewers or at sewage disposal works.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID J. GRAHAM,

Senior Public Health Inspector

APPENDIX I.

I am indebted to Miss C. I. Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer, for the following Housing Statistics :—

Parish	Number of Properties under the control of the Council at 31st December, 1957				Analysis showing Housing progress from January 1st to December 31st, 1957		
	Pre-war houses	Post-war houses	Acquired Property	Total	New houses completed in 1957	Number of properties vacated in 1956 other than by transfer	Number of families re-housed in 1957
London Colney	100	420	3	523	64	7	66
Redbourn	128	184	...	312	20	10	33
St. Stephens	34	198	...	232	...	4	21
Colney Heath	108	128	...	236	60	4	41
Sandridge	54	130	...	184	...	7	14
Wheathampstead	90	193	4	287	4	11	13
St. Michaels	16	...	...	16	...	1	1
Harpenden U.D.C. Area	...	14	...	14	...	...	...
Harpenden Rural	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
City Area	...	...	3	3	...	...	1
	530	1,267	10	1,807	148	44*	190*

*Two houses were vacated late 1957 and not re-let until 1958.

APPENDIX II.

Table showing the number of Moveable Dwellings in the District at December, 1957,
The number of Sites used by them and the Services available thereat

Parish	Total number of occupied moveable dwellings stationed in the district at December, 1957	Number of sites on which these moveable dwellings are stationed	Maximum Number of occupied moveable dwellings on any one site	Number of sites with main drainage	Number of sites where foul drainage is disposed of in cesspools	Number of sites provided with watercloset sanitation	Number of sites served by a readily accessible mains water supply
London Colney	36	6	20	4	...	5	6
St. Stephens ...	113	37	25	7	...	6	34
St. Michaels ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Redbourn ...	29	8	16	2	1	2	5
Harpenden Rural	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wheathampstead	18	11	4	1	...	2	7
Sandridge ...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1
Colney Heath ...	52	15	31	2	2	3	9
Totals ...	249	78	97	16	3	18	62

APPENDIX III.

RODENT CONTROL—Period 1st April, 1957, to 31st March, 1958

	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricultural (3)	All other (including business premises) (4)	Total (5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	5	8,081	230	284	8,600
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the three months ended 31st March, 1958, as a result of :—					
(a) Notification ... ..	...	98	...	20	118
(b) Survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ...	5	191	141	85	422
(c) Otherwise, <i>e.g.</i> , when visited primarily for some other purpose ...	...	170	...	90	260
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II.) which were found to be infested by rats	3	225	9	19	256
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II.) which were found to be infested by mice ... ..	...	46	...	7	53
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III. and IV.) treated by the Local Authority	3	271	...	13	287

APPENDIX IV.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948 I.—Inspections for purposes of Provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number in Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	4	...	...
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	30	5	...
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	6	...	...

APPENDIX V.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948
2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	3	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of Floor (S.6) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	4	2	...	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	...	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out work) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	9	5	...	...	...

APPENDIX VI.

SUMMARY OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Type of Food Premises	London Colney	Colney Heath	St. Stephens	Wheat- hamp- stead	Redbourn	Sandridge	St. Michaels	Harpenden Rural	Total
1. Grocery and Provision Stores	9	7	10	8	11	3	...	1	49
2. Grocery, Provisions and Butcher ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
3. Grocery, Provisions and Cafe	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
4. Butchers ...	1	1	1	1	4	...	...	...	8
5. Bakers' Shops ...	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	5
6. Bakeries ...	2	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	7
7. Sweets and Confectionery	1	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	7
8. Greengrocers and Fruiterers	2	1	3	2	3	...	...	...	11
9. Wet and Fried Fish ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
10. Cafes, including Clubs and Licensed Restaurants ...	4	1	4	4	2	1	3	...	19
11. Factory Canteens ...	1	...	1	2	...	2	...	...	6
12. Schools and Institutions ...	4	1	3	2	1	3	...	...	14
13. Hospitals and Nursing Homes ...	3	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	9
14. Food Factory ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
15. Licensed Houses ...	7	9	8	15	11	5	1	1	57
Totals ...	36	23	37	42	37	15	4	2	196

APPENDIX VII.

Statistics respecting Cesspools in the District which were being cleansed by the Council at the 31st December, 1957

Parish (1)	Number cleansed on request (2)	Number cleansed at regular intervals (3)	Totals (the figures in brackets indicate the numbers at 31st December, 1956) (4)	Cesspools already included in Column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for all cleansing because they are within 100 feet of a sewer (5)	Cesspools already included in Column 4 and serving properties which are unlikely to have sewerage facilities for many years to come (6)
St. Stephens ...	69	...	69 (72)	6	54
London Colney ...	8	...	8 (13)	4	2
Colney Heath ...	56	4	60 (105)	19	42
Sandridge ...	26	1	27 (25)	...	27
Wheathampstead ...	169	3	172 (159)	...	129
Harpenden Rural ...	28	...	28 (25)	...	28
Redbourn ...	66	...	66 (64)	2	64
St. Michaels ...	62	2	64 (60)	...	48
Totals ...	484	10	494 (523)	31	394

